



## Educator Resource

# Battle of Bull Run/ Manassas Pt. I

**Dates & Eras** 1861

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**Themes** Battles  
Soldiers

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**Grades** 5-7

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**Standards** VS.1,  
VS.7,  
VUS.1;  
CCSS.ELA-  
LITERACY.  
RH11-12.3

## History Overview

In the spring of 1861 the nation was preparing for war. Men in the North and the South rushed to join the ranks. But had anyone prepared for the fight that lay ahead? Both the United States government and Confederate States leaders had their hands full preparing for a military conflict. Rations were tight, housing was insufficient, and transportation was slow and disorganized.

Young men, some only teenagers, were not prepared for military drills or long, tedious days of marching. The officers had a difficult time gaining respect or obedience from their men. Moreover, time was not on anyone's side.

On July 21, 1861, the first major battle of the war took place near a stream called Bull Run near Manassas, Virginia. This battle served as a reality check for governments, military leaders, and especially the common soldier.

With nearly 5,000 men killed, wounded, or captured, many realized that this conflict would not be settled in one large battle.

Artifacts from the Battle of First Manassas/Bull Run reveal the human side of this story. The artifacts tell historians of the personal impact this battle had on those who actually experienced it.



## Resources

[Artifact 1](#)

[Artifact 2](#)

[Artifact 3](#)

[Artifact 4](#)

[Artifact 5](#)

[Artifact Cataloging Chart](#)

## Additional Links

[Walk Through the War 1861–  
Preparations to Realities](#)

[Civil War Home: Bull Run: Its  
Strategy and Tactics, By R. M.  
Johnston](#)

## Suggested Questions

1. How can you use these artifacts to argue that the actual experience of battle was far from the romantic, glorified image that soldiers had before they participated in a battle?
2. What can you tell about the person who owned or created each of these artifacts?
3. Taking mementos or the act of creating reverence and remembrance around certain events is still done today. Provide a modern example of this being done by an individual or a society.

## Suggested Activities

1. Have students use the cataloging chart to record information about the pictured artifacts. Instruct them to look critically at the artifacts and determine why and how a specific piece can create a more complete understanding of the battle. Then, hold a class discussion using the suggested questions.
2. Have the students gather into groups of 2 or 3 to read the report from Brigadier General Jackson following the Battle of Manassas (follow the link to Jackson's report on The Civil War Home Page website). With textual evidence from Jackson's report, have the groups summarize the events concerning the Battle. Have students state one interesting fact they learned from this activity.

# Artifact I



Paper wrapped charge with hand-written ink inscription: "Carried onto the field at the battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861." This cartridge belonged to Lyman Briggs, a farrier for the 5th Rhode Island Cavalry, and was carried at the battle, but not used.

American Civil War Museum

# Artifact 2



Battle shirt of Priv. Kennedy Palmer, Company H (Winchester Boomerangs) 13th Virginia Infantry, made by sister Nellie.

American Civil War Museum

# Artifact 3



A. P. Hubbard carried this toothbrush during the American Civil War. He served with the 4th South Carolina Infantry, "Palmetto Riflemen." At the Battle of 1st Manassas, a one-ounce ball pierced Hubbard's left arm above the elbow, and entered his left side, cutting his watch chain and breaking the toothbrush.

American Civil War Museum

# Artifact 4



Pipe (left side, right side, and front views) made by a Confederate soldier during the American Civil War from the root of a cherry tree on the battlefield of First Bull Run (Manassas). Possibly made by William Monaghan, who gave it to Gen. John Armstrong.

American Civil War Museum



# Artifact 5



The sheet is white linen with ink wash drawing on one side. The sheet provides the canvas for a rough sketch of the battlefield of Manassas drawn by a patient in a temporary hospital and presented to Dr. J. C. Nott, Surgeon in charge.

American Civil War Museum



# Artifact Cataloging Chart

	Artifact 1	Artifact 2	Artifact 3	Artifact 4	Artifact 5
Description					
Owner/ Attributed to					
Function					
Date					
Use					
Why?					